USDA NRCS
United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

CSP-2017-1_DE - pasture_Pasture

Soil Erosion

Sheet and Rill Erosion

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met
Screening level: Permanent ground cover > 90% and slope < 10%. Assessment level: The water erosion rate is <= T.	Yes ☐ No ☐

Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Test Met
Plants are perennial, adapted to the site, productive and healthy.	Yes ☐ No ☐
Plant cover controls active erosion (shallow <1 foot deep rills/gullies) and runoff from normal rain events. No litter dams or terracettes are present.	Yes ☐ No ☐

Wind Erosion

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met
Screening level: Permanent ground cover > 90% and slope < 10%. Assessment level: The wind erosion rate is <= T.	Yes ☐ No ☐

Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Test Met
All areas expected to have high erosion rates are stable.	Yes ☐ No ☐

Classic Gully Erosion

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met
Screening level: Classic gullies are not present. Assessment level: Classic gully management is adequate to stop the progression of head cutting and widening and are offsite impacts are minimized by vegetation and/or structures.	Yes ☐ No ☐

Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Test Met
Plant cover controls active erosion (gullies <1 foot deep).	Yes ☐ No ☐

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Streambank, Shoreline, Water Conveyance Channels

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met
Screening level: Streams, shoreline or channels are not adjacent to site. Assessment level: Bank erosion is beyond the client's control or commensurate with normal geomorphological processes, AND PCS - streambank/shoreline erosion element score is >= 4.	Yes ☐ No ☐

Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Test Met
Excluding all fundamentally unstable, natural geomorphic streambanks/shorelines, all streambanks/shorelines on the operation show few signs of erosion or bank failure. Each is stable and protected with natural materials.	Yes ☐ No ☐
All stream and channel banks, pond and other shorelines are stable.	Yes ☐ No ☐

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Soil Quality Degradation

Organic Matter Depletion

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met
Screening level: Permanent ground cover > 80%. Assessment level: The SCI is > 0, OR the PCS - plant cover element score is >= 4 AND the PCS - plant residue element score is >= 4.	Yes ☐ No ☐

Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Test Met
Plants are perennial, adapted to the site, productive and healthy.	Yes ☐ No ☐

Compaction

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met
Screening level: Soil compaction is not a problem AND activities do not cause soil compaction problems. Assessment level: The PCS - compaction element score is >= 4.	Yes ☐ No ☐

Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Test Met
Soils are not compacted past a point that limits plant root depth and growth.	Yes ☐ No ☐

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Insufficient Water

Inefficient Use of Irrigation Water

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met
Screening level: PLU is not irrigated. Assessment level: The irrigation system components and management result in a Farm Irrigation Rating Index > 60 AND meets applicable State in-stream flow and lake and pond water levels requirements.	Yes ☐ No ☐

Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Test Met
An irrigation water management plan is followed that: -meets the forage's needs, while maximizing irrigation water efficiency, -schedules water application based on soil moisture monitoring and/or evapotranspiration monitoring, -measures and records the amount of water you use to irrigate as it comes onto the farm and goes to each field, AND -the system's distribution uniformity has been evaluated and necessary changes were made.	Yes ☐ No ☐

Inefficient Moisture Management

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met
Screening level: Moisture management is not a problem AND activities do not cause inefficient moisture management problems. Assessment level: The PCS - compaction element score is >= 4 AND the PCS - plant cover element score is >= 4.	Yes ☐ No ☐

Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Test Met
Predominate plants are adapted to the site, usual rain fall, and are useful as intended.	Yes ☐ No ☐

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Water Quality Degradation

Pesticides in Surface Water

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met
Screening level: Pest control chemicals are not applied. Assessment level: Pesticides are stored, handled, disposed and managed to prevent runoff, spills, leaks and leaching AND conservation practices and managements are in place to minimize surface water impacts.	Yes ☐ No ☐

Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Test Met
A site-specific mixture of prevention, avoidance, monitoring, and suppression (PAMS) strategies are applied. If pesticide application is required, an environmental risk screening tool is used (such as WIN-PST or similar LGU approval tool) and application rates and timing are compliant with the label and the conservation plan.	Yes ☐ No ☐

Pesticides in Ground Water

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met
Screening level: Pest control chemicals are not applied. Assessment level: Pesticides are stored, handled, disposed and managed to prevent runoff, spills, leaks and leaching AND conservation practices and managements are in place to minimize ground water impacts.	Yes ☐ No ☐

Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Test Met
A site-specific mixture of prevention, avoidance, monitoring, and suppression (PAMS) strategies are applied. If pesticide application is required, an environmental risk screening tool is used (such as WIN-PST or similar LGU approval tool) and application rates and timing are compliant with the label and the conservation plan.	Yes ☐ No ☐

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Nutrients in Surface Water

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met
Screening level: Organic or inorganic nutrients are not applied AND grazed PLU is not adjacent to streams, ponds, or lakes AND there are no confined livestock areas. Assessment level: The PCS - streambank/shoreline erosion element score is >= 4 AND the PCS - livestock concentration areas element score is >= 4, OR Nutrients are applied and based on a soil test, tissue test or nutrient budget.	Yes ☐ No ☐

Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Test Met
If nutients are applied, they do not degrade surface/ground water quality. Water use is not limited.	Yes ☐ No ☐
Livestock access to stream is controlled OR limited to small watering or crossing areas	Yes ☐ No ☐

Nutrients in Ground Water

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met
Screening level: Organic or inorganic nutrients are not applied AND grazed PLU is not adjacent to streams, ponds, or lakes AND there are no confined livestock areas. Assessment level: The PCS - streambank/shoreline erosion element score is >= 4 AND the PCS - livestock concentration areas element score is >= 4, OR Nutrients are applied and based on a soil test, tissue test or nutrient budget.	Yes ☐ No ☐

Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Test Met
If nutients are applied, they do not degrade surface/ground water quality. Water use is not limited.	Yes ☐ No ☐

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Excess Pathogens and Chemicals from Manure, Bio-solids or Compost Applications in Surface Water

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met
Screening level: Potential sources of pathogens or pharmaceuticals are not applied on the land. Assessment level: Organic materials are applied, stored, and/or handled to mitigate negative impacts to surface water sources.	Yes ☐ No ☐

Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Test Met
Livestock access to stream is controlled OR limited to small watering or crossing areas	Yes ☐ No ☐
Manure, compost, or biosolids are applied per their test report. Grazing management optimizes applied products.	Yes ☐ No ☐

Excessive Sediment in Surface Water

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met
Screening level: Permanent ground cover > 90% and slope < 10% AND classic gullies are not present AND streams or shoreline are not on or adjacent to site. Assessment level: Upslope treatment and buffer practices address concentrated flows to water bodies AND the SVAP2 - bank condition >= 5 AND the livestock and vehicle water crossings are stable AND The water erosion rate is <= T AND wind erosion rate is <= T.	Yes ☐ No ☐

Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Test Met
Plant cover controls active erosion (shallow <1 foot deep rills/gullies) and runoff from normal rain events. No litter dams are present.	Yes ☐ No ☐

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Air Quality Impacts

Emission of Greenhouse Gases (GHGs)

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met
Screening level: Activities are not present that produce GHGs emissions. GHG producing activities are: Fertilization(manure/commercial), CAFO/manure management, Engines (combustion source), Tillage, AND GHGs are not regulated in this planning area. Assessment level: Greenhouse gas emmissions are managed to meet client objectives.	Yes ☐ No ☐

Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Test Met
Forage Supply and Demand Balance is achieved.	Yes ☐ No ☐

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Degraded Plant Condition

Undesirable Plant Productivity and Health

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met
Assessment level: The PCS is 30 or above. Plants are adapted to the site, meet production goals and do not negatively impact other resources.	Yes ☐ No ☐

Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Test Met
Plants are perennial, adapted to the site, productive and healthy.	Yes ☐ No ☐

Excessive Plant Pest Pressure

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met
Screening level: Plant productivity is not limited from pest pressure. Assessment level: The PCS - insect and disease pressure element score is >= 4 AND the PCS - site adaptation element score is >= 4.	Yes ☐ No ☐

Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Test Met
Plant growth and cover is managed as to inhibit pest plant introduction.	Yes ☐ No ☐

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Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat

Inadequate Habitat - Cover/Shelter

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met
Assessment level: The WHSI rating is >= 0.5 AND (when surface stream present) the SVAP2 - barriers to movement element score is >= 7 AND the SVAP2 - fish habitat complexity element score is >= 7 AND the SVAP2 - aquatic invertebrate habitat element score is >= 7, OR conservation practices and managements are in place that meet or exceed species or guild-specific habitat model thresholds, OR cover is of available quality and extent to support habitat requirements for the species of interest.	Yes ☐ No ☐

Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Test Met
The plant cover provides cover and shelter for the chosen wildlife species.	Yes ☐ No ☐

Inadequate Habitat - Habitat Continuity (Space)

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met
Assessment level: The WHSI rating is >= 0.5 AND (when surface stream present) the SVAP2 - barriers to movement element score is >= 7 AND the SVAP2 - aquatic invertebrate habitat element score is >= 7, OR conservation practices and managements are in place that meet or exceed species or guild-specific habitat model thresholds, OR The connectivity of habitat components are adequate to support stable populations of targeted species.	Yes ☐ No ☐

Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Test Met
Plant cover provides space for wildlife species.	Yes ☐ No ☐
Connectivity between food resources and cover and shelter is provided for the chosen wildlife species. <see State Wildlife Action Plan>	Yes ☐ No ☐

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Livestock Production Limitation

Inadequate Feed and Forage

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met
Assessment level: When the land use has a "grazed" modifer, livestock forage, roughage and supplemental nutritional requirements addressed.	Yes ☐ No ☐

Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Test Met
The existing feed/forage quantity/quality meet the livestock needs and goals.	Yes ☐ No ☐

Inadequate Shelter

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met
Assessment level: When the land use has a "grazed" modifer, artificial or natural shelters meet animal health needs and client objectives.	Yes ☐ No ☐

Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Test Met
Livestock have adequate shelter.	Yes ☐ No ☐

Inadequate Water

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met
Assessment level: When the land use has a "grazed" modifer, water of acceptable quality and quantity adequately distributed to meet animal needs.	Yes ☐ No ☐

Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Test Met
The livestock have enough drinking water of good quality.	Yes ☐ No ☐

Inefficient Energy Use

Farming/Ranching Practices and Field Operations

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met
Screening level: Client is not interested in improving equipment and facilities energy efficiency. Assessment level: Major componenets of a USDA approved energy audit have been implemented that address equipment and facilities to meet client objectives OR On-farm renewable energy and/or energy conserving practices have been implemented to meet client objectives.	Yes ☐ No ☐

Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Test Met
Recommendations/components of an energy audit have been applied. The audit addressed equipment and facilities on the farm. For example, energy loss from lighting, drying, refrigeration, heating, or building insulation have been improved.	Yes ☐ No ☐